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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 30 Jan. 1950

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1. On 2 December 1949 the farmers of Yun Ch'eng (運城) and T'ao Hsa (桃花), villages of the Wantan (119-29, 29-09) district, Lanchi Hsien, appealed to the hsien government for exemption from food commandeering. During an official meeting in the hsien government offices to discuss the grievances, word got out that the farmers' representatives had been killed. A crowd of more than a thousand farmers waiting outside rushed the troops guarding the offices, took two light machine guns and about eighty rifles, and killed the hsien magistrate, the assistant magistrate, and twenty other officials. The farmers also released all prisoners.
2. Mobs subsequently attacked and destroyed local magistrates' offices, public security bureau offices, revenue offices, and People's Bank offices, killing officials and police in the Houjen (119-23, 29-16) Nu Pu (支坪) and Huo Ch'ang (或昌) districts. These mobs were made up of more than 4,000 farmers, and they were encouraged by the success of the revolt in the Wantan district.
3. By 4 January 1950 Communist troops from an adjacent hsien arrived to put down the revolt, killing about seventy farmers. Some farmers have joined the anti-Communist guerrillas in the mountains.
4. When farmers in Chuchi Hsien (120-13, 29-44) and Iwu Hsien (120-03, 29-18) refused to pay taxes in kind, Communist authorities, fearing another revolt, sent political workers in to explain the Lanchi Hsien incident. The agents are saying that the revolts are the work of Kuomintang agents, four of whom have been executed.

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